THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Under the present price policy for agricultural commodities, the Government announces each season minimum support prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organiszes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies, such as Food Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The MSPs fixed by the Government not only cover cost of production, but also a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve production and productivity.

(c) Does not arise.

Scheme for Fruit Production in Maharashtra

2314. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released funds to the Government of Maharashtra under the scheme for establishment of nurseries, tissue culture units, area expansion etc. for the development of fruit production in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether funds for the purpose have also been earmarked for 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) achievements of the State after extending the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The assistance provided to the Governemnt of Maharashtra under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits during the last three years is as follows:—

(*Rs. in lakh*)

Year	Amount
1996-97	124.20
1997-98	100.00
1998-99	214.00

(c) and (d) An outlay of Rs. 204.64 lakhs has been earmarked to Governemnt of Maharashtra for 1999- 2000 for the following components:

	Item	Target	Outlay (Lakh Rs.)
1.	Establishment of large Nurseries (No)	1	18.00
2.	Establishment of small Nurseries (No.)	12	2.40
3.	Tissue Culture Unit (public sector) (No)	1	10.00
4.	Tissue Culture Unit (Private sector) (No.)	1	21.00
5.	Area expansion (Ha.)	1935	106.51
6.	Rejuvenation (Ha.)	2450	33.23
7.	Training of Farmers (No.)	350	3.50
8.	Publicity measures		5.00
9.	Maintenance		5.00
	TOTAL:		204.64

(e) The details of progress achieved in Maharashtra since inception of the scheme during the VIII Plan till 1998-99 is as follows:

	Item	Progress Achieved
1.	Establshment of Large Nurseries (No.)	6
2.	Establshment of small Nurseries (No.)	24
3.	Tissue Culture Unit (Public sector) (No.)	2
4.	Tissue Culture Unit (Private sector) (No.)	1
5.	Area Expansion (Ha.)	5000
6.	Rejuvenaiton (Ha.)	9574
7.	Training of Farmers (No.)	1103

Benefits of research work to farmers

2315. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that benefits of the research works conducted by various Agriculture Universities/Institutes have not reached the farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are no proper linkages between the